SPARK GAP

Vol. 41, Issue 6, June 2024 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities*

On Our MARC:

Please join us Saturday, June 15th at 8 am for our monthly club meeting. We have elections coming up this summer, and you need to be a paid member to vote, so please make sure your membership is paid up before the end of the month. Hope to see you Saturday.

73,
Tim
WC9G

CLUB DUES FOR 2024

It is that time of year for your membership dues for the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club. The annual membership dues is $25.00 per year and has not changed from last year.

This also a good time to update any of your information for club records such as license upgrade, change of address, contact information or call sign.

This is also a good opportunity for new amateurs to join our club and join in our club activities for 2024.

Please see Jacki Frederick, KI6QOG M.A.R.C. Treasurer

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

WA9VBG - Sam Carter
W8ISH - Jack Parker
K9OMT - Michael Turner
WB9CHR - Art Bleicher
W9KMS -Steven Seifert
N9MEM - Josh Marshall

2024 ARRL Field Day is June 22-23

MARC will be hosting a ARRL Field Day event in Brown County State Park. It will be a true Field Day being outdoors and in a location where the public can see HAM Radio in action. If you would like to participate from that location as well as camp overnight contact Kyle Burns, AD9CR for more information, kyle@ad9cr.com

STATE OF INDIANA

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
INDIANAPOLIS

Executive Order

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS MAY COME, GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, amateur radio operators have provided countless hours of community service wholly uncompensated during emergencies for more than a century; and

WHEREAS, the State of Indiana also recognizes the services amateur radio volunteers provide to our emergency response organizations, including the Department of Homeland Security, the American Red Cross, National Weather Service and state, county and city emergency management agencies; and

WHEREAS, these same individuals have further demonstrated their value in public assistance by providing free radio communications for local charitable public events; and

WHEREAS, the weekend of June 22-23, 2024, has been set aside nationally for amateur radio field exercises where licensed amateur radio operators will use their radios to make contacts with other amateur radio operators around the country;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Eric J. Holcomb, Governor of the State of Indiana, do hereby proclaim June 17-23, 2024 as

AMATEUR RADIO APPRECIATION WEEK

in the State of Indiana, and invite all citizens to duly note this occasion.

In Testimony Whereof, I hereto set my hand and cause to be affixed the Great Seal of State. Done at the City of Indianapolis, this 30th day of May the year of our Lord 2024 and of the Independence of the United States 248.

Eric Holcomb

BY THE GOVERNOR: _____

CRASH TRUCK-up close and personal

Over a dozen MARC members got a firsthand, behind the scenes look at the Indianapolis Airport Authority Fire Department June 8th. The tour was led by Martin Edwards, KC9WBL, a former airport fire department member.

Thanks to Deputy Chief Summers, our group saw, touched and even sat in the driver's seat of the 2015 Oshkosh Striker 3000 6×6 50′ Snozzle.

The driver is able to drive the truck and operate all the equipment like the 1950 GPM pump, 3000-gallon water tank with 420 gallons of foam and 500 lbs. dry chemical.

Rhonda, WS9H and Tim WC9G were two of the hams to try out the driver's seat. According to Deputy Chief Summers by law, each piece of apparatus must respond to the middle of the field within three minutes of the alert. They have several stations along the runway that provides a quick response.

For the fire buffs their equipment at Station One include CRASH TRUCK 006 Oshkosh Striker 1500 4×4 750 GPM pump, 1500-gallon water tank with 210 gallons of foam and 500 lbs. dry chemicals nicknamed "**The Super Soaker**".

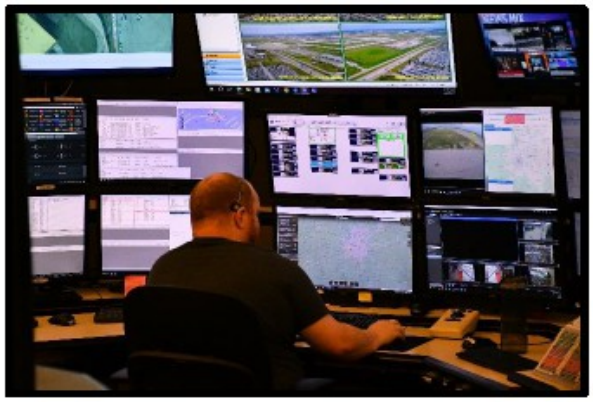
AIRPORT FIRE DEPARTMENT

A second Striker truck with 3000 6×6 1950 GPM pump has 3000-gallon water tank with 420 gallons of foam and 500 lbs. of dry chemical. A squad vehicle, and aerial truck are on station as well in case of medical or structural fire runs.

Across the service driveway our MARC group then toured the Airport Emergency Operations Center located closer to the terminal. It houses police and fire dispatch and an EOC in case of major incidents.

That building was built to withstand an EF-4 tornado or plane crash in case the aircraft veers off course on approach.

Everyone enjoyed the tour behind the scenes to see how airport emergency services work.. Now if they could just find my lost luggage and get me a better seat on my next flight, it would be appreciated.
-JP



-Photos by Jack W8ISH

and Jim KB9JMU

How the Army Handled D-Day Communications

June 6 marks 80 years since that historic massive invasion

BY MARK DURENBERGER ·
PUBLISHED: MAY 31, 2024

The Allied invasion of continental Europe 80 years ago was a logistical tour de force. Its success hinged on an operative communications network unifying the invading armies and their support systems.

The U.S. Army Signal Corps, or "SigC," was tasked with establishing massive, reliable, multi-channel high-speed voice and "data" networks. These networks would support a mission buildup of more than a million troops in a hostile environment.

That meant two-way voice circuits to keep decision-makers in touch and high-speed channels to exchange reconnaissance photos and situation maps evaluating the impact of aerial and ship-launched ordnance.

SigC's design baselines were high capacity and agility, with low latency. Communications with the beach had to be established speedily using whatever gear made it to shore in the contested landings. The system had to be mobile: radio supplemented by ad-hoc wire telephony. Contact within operating units had to survive when troops mistakenly landed in one another's sectors.

American troops splash ashore to the Normandy coast of France in June 1944 in a U.S. Army Signal Corps photo. Credit: Bettman Archives/Getty Images

Frequency coordination

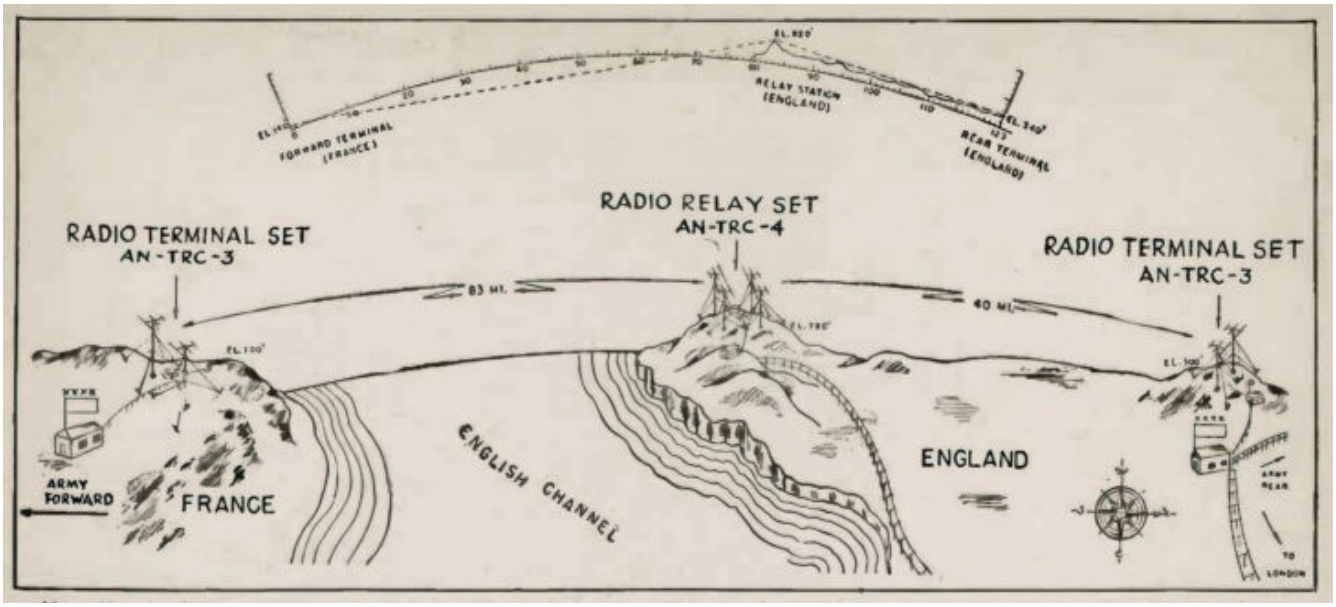
SigC had estimated it would need some 90,000 transmitters for the job. This mandated frequency coordination. The radios were largely short-range “hand-helds” but also included short- and medium-distance radio links to naval and air elements and Allied headquarters.

Signal-gear manufacturers were asked to provide rollout proposals for the project and it quickly became apparent that the total number of required radio channels was far larger than the spectrum available (2.5 to 8 mc). SigC’s last-minute solution was to narrow the guard bands between channels to as little as 4 kc. Fortunately, tactical radios had been

designed for crystal-controlled FM operation so this predicted project snafu was resolved by last-minute crystal-regrinding on a massive scale.

In the end, it all worked. In the first three weeks of the invasion, among all those transmitters, only 80-some interference complaints were registered.

A significant amount of radio gear was lost in the initial landings but SigC's planning had suitably provided for battle attrition. Contact with the beach was generally successful, with the exception of some high-power voice-channel transmitters delayed through circumstance.



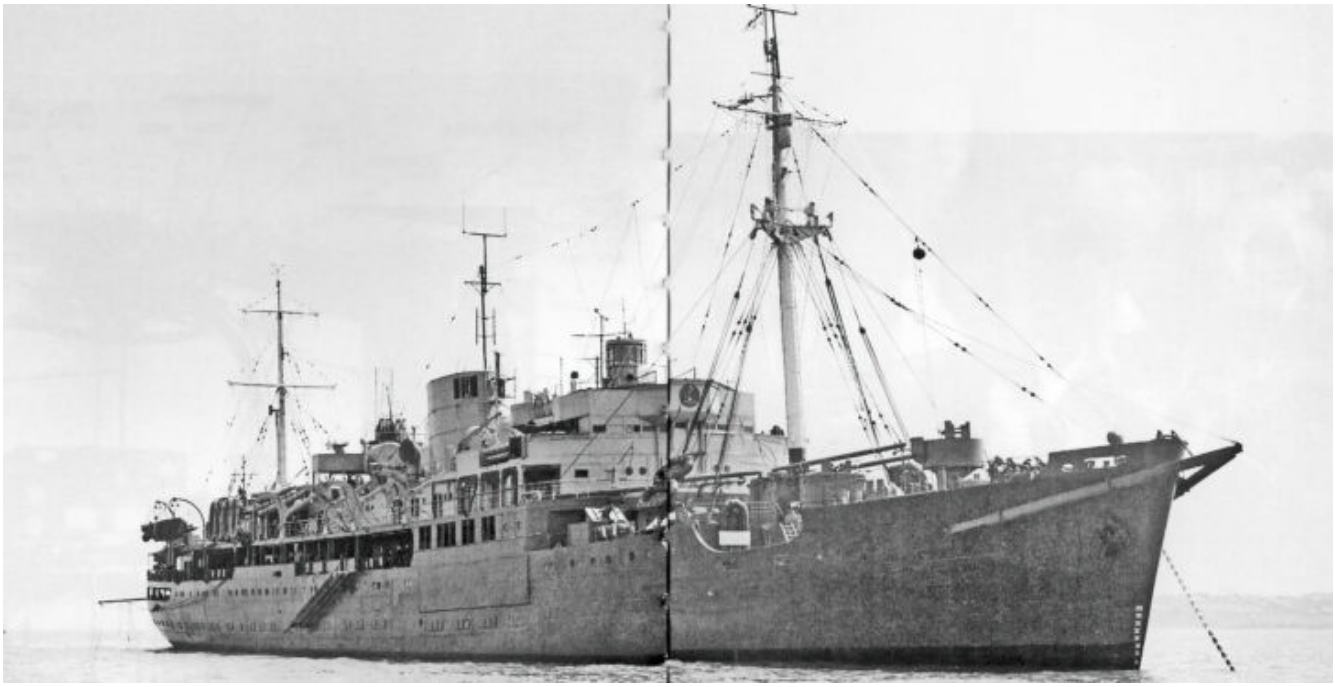
A diagram shows the military's communications channels as established shortly after the beach invasion. This image appeared in Radio-Craft magazine in 1945.

Trivia: Less susceptible to battle damage were some 500 pigeons, landed for the purpose of carrying ammunition-status reports, undeveloped film and emergency messages. At the end of the day, electronic communications were so effective the pigeons could go home to roost.

The “backhaul”

No less important than unit tactical communications was the need for reliable high-capacity communications with headquarters in Britain.

Initial contact relied on shore-based transmitters reaching off-shore relay ships for retransmission to England. Shortly after operations began, a SigC team successfully established multi-channel “carrier” systems (Army/Navy Transportable Communications, or ANTRAC) directly from France to England. And by the end of June, surviving an initial series of setbacks, cable ships were able to lay wire communications across the channel.



A wireless relay ship shown in a U.S. Navy archival photo. On board, signals from short-range beach transmitters were patched to long-range transmitters to reach Britain.

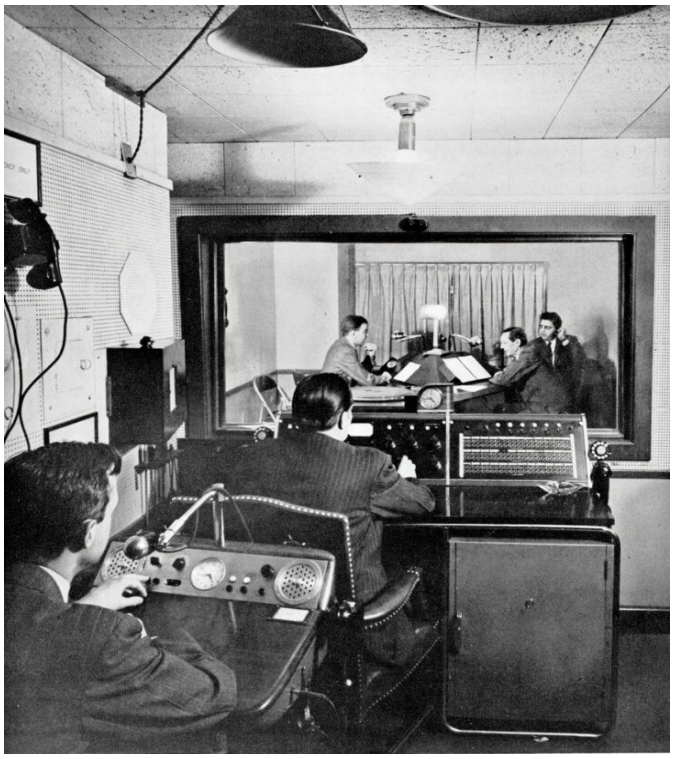
Media matters

The relatively “thin-route” requirements for the media were not lost in the planning. Fortunately, key military leaders remained aware of the need to keep the world informed. Media support had failed somewhat sadly in the North African Invasion of 1942 and it was clear that SigC had to do a better job.

David Sarnoff of RCA was appointed by General Dwight Eisenhower to coordinate media communications planning. Sarnoff's efforts resulted in the establishment of a media route through the "London Signal Center," itself the hub of SigC communications. And Sarnoff was able to leverage his high-level relationships to induce the British to establish additional shortwave paths to America.

In the months preceding the invasion, American journalists had been facing implied and actual opposition from the British, who didn't understand Americans' incessant demands for information. As an early demonstration of how the show would be run, SigC established "FAX," its own full-duplex shortwave channel direct to the United States. FAX would become the official channel for communiques from SHAEF, the Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force. FAX would also cue the radio networks tied to it in a "party-line" arrangement.

In turn, the media had to accept certain ground rules. Given that very few journalists were authorized a seat in the initial show, radio reporting would be pooled, coordinated by Edward R. Murrow. Print copy had to be shared among all competitors and recording of radio news reporting was for the first time allowed by the American networks.



Network reporters are shown in a photo from the contemporary book "The Fourth Chime: National Broadcasting Company."

America waits for the news

In anticipation of the invasion and in the spirit of pool coverage, the radio networks came together in temporary harmony to prepare for “the biggest news story of the decade.” Rival news directors met to coordinate coverage and to help one another with planning difficulties.

The ultimate vigil began early on the morning of June 6 when German Radio announced “an invasion of France.” The network newsrooms turned up the volume on the FAX circuit and waited for confirmation. The first official communique came through about 2:30 a.m. From then on, it was a matter of watching the teletype and waiting for pool reports.

Observing the invasion, some journalists aboard ships or aircraft would make their recordings or write their copy en route; they’d disembark back in England and make a beeline for Britain’s Ministry of Information for review and censorship clearance. (Recordings were made on some form of “sound film,” since ship and aircraft motion made traditional disc-recording impossible.)

All reporters’ copy had to be screened prior to forwarding. Credit: U.S. Army Center of Military History

From the battleground itself, radio reporters spoke into “transcription machines” of varying complexity. These recordings were then shipped to London on naval transport (and often subjected to unforeseen delay). Some reports made it to London via air on the “SHAEF Shuttle.” Once cleared by the censors, the recordings and any live reporting from studios in England were forwarded to shortwave transmitters.

The written media would soon find a pipeline to America direct from the beaches. Two selected commercial companies, Press Wireless and Mackay Radio, were to establish circuits from the continent to the United States. Press Wireless was to become operational on D+60 and Mackay Radio on D+90, but under serious pressure from the press and through a “test arrangement” with SigC, the Press Wireless transmitter came up early.

Its “direct-to-America” capability at first created a censorship ruckus but eventually, under press pressure, the military cleared the way for the hundreds of thousands of words destined for American newspapers. The radio recordings contributed to the legacy of wartime journalism.

D-Day coverage was known by journalists as “The Biggest Beat,” and history records its success. But the valor and sacrifice of the soldiers landing on those beaches would be the biggest story and would far outstrip the work of the deskbound planners.

Comment on this or any story to radioworld@futurenet.com. Reach the author at mark4@durenberger.com.

MARK DURENBERGER
The author has been contributing to Radio World for decades. He has 60+ years of experience in broadcasting, satellite technology, education and radio history.

..... Thanks to Tim, WC9G for finding this article

INDIANA HAMFESTS 2024

Auburn Hamfest
Start Date: 07/20/2024
End Date: 07/20/2024
Location: Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum
1600 Wayne Street
Auburn, IN 46706
Website: http://w9ou.org
Sponsor: Northeastern Indiana Amateur Radio Association
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Talk-In: 147.015 with 141.3 tone
Public Contact: John Chalmers , W9GOO
P.O. Box 145 Auburn, IN 46706
Phone: 260-927-5746
Email: W9OU@arrl.net

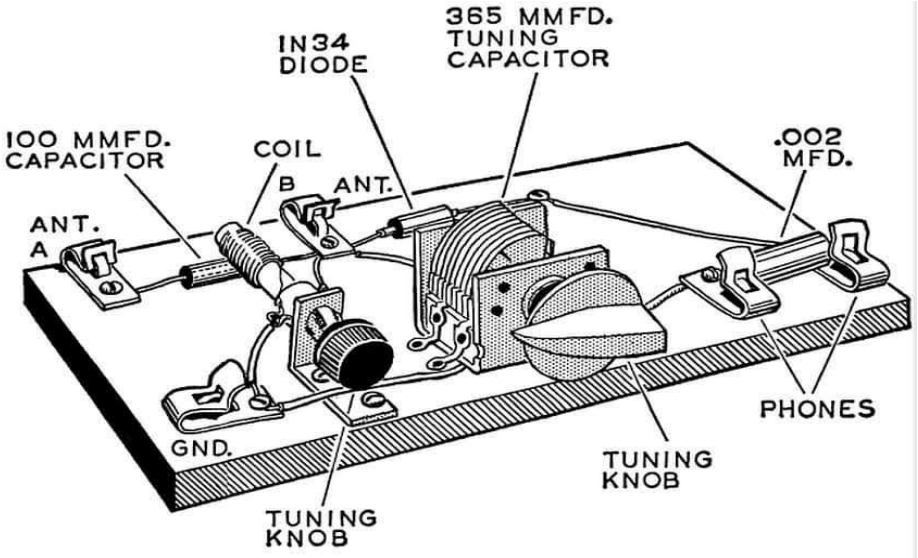
Elkhart East Hamfest, ARRL Central Divison Convention
Start Date: 08/03/2024
End Date: 08/03/2024
Location: Northern Indiana Event Center
21565 Executive Parkway
Elkhart, IN 46514
Website: http://elkharteasthamfest.com
Sponsor: Northern Indiana K9DEW Repeater Network
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Talk-In: 147.330+ / 131.8
Public Contact: Dewey Thrash , K9DEW
53464 Baywater Place Bristol, IN 46507
Phone: 574-370-2436
Email: elkharthamfest@gmail.com

Hendricks County Tailgate Fest
Start Date: 08/10/2024
End Date: 08/10/2024
Location: Avon United Methodist Church
6850 E. US Hwy 36
Avon, IN 46123
Sponsor: Ham Emergency Radio Operations
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Talk-In: 145.130 MHz PL-Tone 88.5
Public Contact: Kenneth A Kayler , KC9SQD
3090 Clover Dr. Plainfield, IN 46168
Phone: 317-874-7068
Email: kc9sqd425@gmail.com

ARANCI Hamfest
Start Date: 08/11/2024
End Date: 08/11/2024
Location: Lake Village Community Center
9728 North 300 West
Lake Village, IN 46349
Sponsor: ARANCI
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Talk-In: 145.330 pl 131.8
Public Contact: Michael Swiader , KA9E
PO Box 215 Lake Village, IN 46349
Phone: 815-409-5070
Email: ka9e@yahoo.com

Hoosier Hills Hamfest
Start Date: 10/12/2024
End Date: 10/12/2024
Location: Lawrence County 4-H Fairgrounds
11265 US-50
Bedford, IN 47421
Website: https://hoosierhillshamfest.com/
Sponsor: Hoosier Hills Ham Club
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Talk-In: 146.73- PL/107.2
Public Contact: Tim Wray , KB9SNL
PO Box 891 Bedford, IN 47421
Phone: 812-675-6733

Email: bwrs1996@gmail.com



MID-STATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the THIRD SATURDAY 8:00 AM of each month at the Johnson County REMC building 750 International Dr. Franklin, IN 46131

See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.

Everyone is welcome; you do not have to be a *HAM* to attend our meetings or a member of the club.

W9MID Repeater:
Offical SkyWarn Repeater for Johnson County

146.835/
146.235 MHz
(151.4 Hz PL Tone)

W9MID Repeater:

443.525/
448.525 MHz
(151.4 Hz PL Tone) YEASU SYSTEM FUSION (C4FM)

Club Officers:

President: Tim Aldridge - WC9G
Vice President: Rhonda Curtis - WS9H
Secretary: Jim Adams – KB9JMU
Treasurer: Jacki Frederick - KI6QOG
Repeater Trustee: Chris Frederick – KQ9Y
Club Historian: Jack Parker – W8ISH
Club P.I.O. : Rhonda Curtis – WS9H

Weekly Net: Sunday evening 7:00 PM ARES/RACES members and ALL RADIO AMATEURS
146.835/146.235 MHz (151.4 Hz PL Tone)

The Official Newsletter of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club
857 Lionshead Lane
Greenwood, Indiana
46143
Spark Gap Editor: Robert LaGrange N9SIU

Please send your articles to my email: n9siu@yahoo.com no later than the 3rd week of the month.

Thanks to Johnson Co. REMC for the use of their building for meetings and testing.